Inadequate Remunerative Price for Coffee

576. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the resentment amongst the coffee growers of Karnataka for not getting adequate remunerative prices of their produce; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to help the coffee growers of the State?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India is fully aware that the coffee growers all over India are not getting the same remunerative prices today as they were getting 2-3 years ago. Concerned with the depressed coffee prices, the Govt. of India has recently approved, in principle, India's participation in the retention scheme of the Association of Coffee Producing Countries (ACPC). It is hoped that the implementation of the said plan for Indian coffee will help in boosting the prices of coffee.

Closed and Sick Industries

577. SHRI C. O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of closed and sick large, medium and small scale industries in the country; State-wise in 1998, 1999 and 2000 separately; and

(b) what steps have been taken to stop the growing incidence of sickness and revive them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) Labour Bureau, Shimla, under the Ministry of Labour, collects information on industrial closure. 425 industrial units have been reported closed under Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 from 1998 to 2000. State-wise details are at enclosed as Statement-I. (*see* below)

Data on sick industrial units, assisted by banks in the country, is compiled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Details of sick